

Heather Fargo has always had a strong sense of public service. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Planning and Management from the University of California, Davis, and went on to complete the State and Local Government Executive Program at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Before becoming mayor, she had a distinguished career at the California Department of Parks and Recreation.

For over twenty years, Mayor Fargo has been a strong advocate for the development of the City of Sacramento and its neighborhoods. Early in Mayor Fargo's career in public service, she served as a board member of the Environmental Council of Sacramento, and was one of the founding members of the Sacramento Tree Foundation, a non-profit organization that promotes urban forestry and shows how trees can make our communities more livable by reducing energy use, cleaning the air, and enhancing social and economic value. As mayor, she has transformed Sacramento into a "green" city with national recognition for being an environmentally sustainable city.

First elected to the Sacramento City Council in 1989, Mayor Fargo played an active role in developing Sacramento's Natomas area, and redeveloping our downtown into a place where people can live, work and play. Under her leadership, Sacramento has become a national model for smart growth and infill development.

After being elected as mayor in 2000, Mayor Fargo proved her dedication to Sacramento's future by creating the Sacramento Youth Commission and sponsoring youth mentoring, after school, and truancy prevention programs. She has given children the opportunity to take part in local policy development and express their views to community leaders. Mentors have been recruited to lead high school teens and help prepare them for successful lives after they graduate.

Mayor Fargo implemented several city policies and programs to bring Sacramento's neighborhoods together, and foster a greater sense of community among its residents. This included public participation on major planning projects, informational workshops on city initiatives and effective outreach on key issues including flood protection, emergency preparedness and housing crisis assistance. She also led the successful efforts to increase funding for levee improvements.

Mayor Fargo has helped unify our region through her leadership on the Sacramento Area Council of Governments. As chair of SACOG, Mayor Fargo built relationships with neighboring cities on issues of importance to our region, especially transportation and air quality issues. She also was a leader with the U.S. Conference of Mayors and currently is president of the League of California Cities.

Madam Speaker, as Mayor Heather Fargo, her family and friends gather on this occasion, I am honored to pay tribute to one of Sacramento's most distinguished citizens and community leaders. Her successes have been many, and it is an honor for me to recognize her for her more than two decades of contributions to the people of Sacramento. I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing Mayor Heather Fargo continued success in her future.

## TRIBUTE TO THE HOME HEALTH AIDES WHO SERVE IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 19, 2008*

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedicated and admirable work of the home health aides who serve my state of New Jersey and to commemorate Home Health Aide Recognition Day of 2008.

Home health aides provide a variety of invaluable services, including personalized care, home support services, physical exercise programs, and transportation assistance. The home health aides provide these services in the comfort of a patient's own home, thereby preserving the dignity and independence of an individual. In addition, providing this type of specialized care allows patients to remain at home longer, which can help prevent costly hospitalizations or institutionalizations that increase the financial burden on the patients, their families, and our health care system.

Over 40,000 certified aides make home health care available to every community in New Jersey, every hour of the day, and every day of the year. I am proud to acknowledge their essential and irreplaceable role in the health care system of New Jersey.

I would also like to recognize the organizations who sponsored this day and the meaningful contributions they make to our state's health care system: the Home Care Association of New Jersey, the New Jersey Hospital Association, the New Jersey Hospice and Palliative Care Organization, the Home Care Council of New Jersey, the Health Care Association of New Jersey, and New Jersey Association for Homes and Services for the Aging.

Each day, compassionate home health aides in every region of my state deliver excellence in patient care. The services they provide enable New Jersey residents of all ages to remain in, or return to, their home and neighborhoods despite severe illness or disability. The Home Health Aid Recognition Day honors their extraordinary work, and their unique ability to enhance the quality of life for thousands of New Jerseyans.

Madam Speaker, I am honored today to recognize these wonderful health professionals and the vital role they play in our communities.

## RECOGNIZING MAJOR GENERAL WALTER WOJDAKOWSKI FOR SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY AND THE UNITED STATES ARMY

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 19, 2008*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a dear friend and one of our brave patriots. For over 30 years, Major General Walter Wojdakowski who is currently the commanding general at Fort Benning in Columbus, Georgia, has served our nation with bravery, dedication and respect. He has a lifetime of selfless service that included command, battlefield and diplomatic experience. Major General Walter Wojdakowski ends his brilliant career at Ft. Benning where he first trained as second lieutenant to become an Infantry platoon leader.

Schooled in military arts at the United States Military Academy West Point, he would travel the globe with his wife Candy and their children Steven and Ami. Major General Wojdakowski would serve in leadership and staff positions in Germany and Kuwait with distinction as well as duty stations in the United States.

His impact is measured by the knowledge he gained through his many challenging and difficult assignments. He used his experience to train this generation of war fighters for the most complex and difficult conflict in our nation's history, the Global War on Terrorism. The men and women he leads at Ft. Benning can proudly proclaim that they have trained the best soldiers in the world.

Major General Wojdakowski has demonstrated loyalty, faith and allegiance to our nation, to our military forces and to the citizens of our great country. He understands that meeting one's duty is to fulfill your obligations and accept responsibility for one's actions and the actions of one's subordinates.

He earned respect leading by example and showing respect by faithfully upholding and practicing the Army values. Major General Wojdakowski is recognized for his integrity and strict focus on exceeding the Army's highest standards. He has always understood the more you sweat in training, the less you bleed in war.

I am pleased to honor this warrior-patriot on his retirement from the United States Army. Major General Wojdakowski exemplifies personal courage and honor. He is one of the brave few who chose a life of servitude to his nation, and because of his service our nation is safer and stronger today. I want to commend Major General Wojdakowski, his wife Candy and his entire family for his reaching this important milestone. I wish him all the best in the years ahead.

## CONGRATULATING THE EVANSVILLE MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL BOYS AND GIRLS SOCCER TEAMS FOR WINNING THE 2008 INDIANA SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIPS

**HON. BRAD ELLSWORTH**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 19, 2008*

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Evansville Memorial High School boys and girls soccer teams on their recent historic achievement. On Saturday, November 1, 2008 the teams became the first to win both the boys and girls Indiana soccer championships in the same year.

With their impressive 23-0-2 record, the boys' team—led by Coach Bill Vieth, Jr.—defended their state title by defeating the Zionsville Eagles 3-2, while Angie Lensing coached the girls' team to its second state championship, defeating Fort Wayne Snider 2-0, ending their season with a 22-2 record.

The extraordinary dedication and teamwork shown by these young athletes is something they can be proud of long after they have left Memorial High School. The teams and coaching staff have demonstrated outstanding talent and an unwavering commitment to achieving their goals. They are an inspiration to me and everyone in the Evansville, Indiana community who have followed them throughout the years.

Go Tigers!